



**Junior
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Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing – March 20, 2012

Testimony of Lou Golden, President Junior Achievement of Southwest New England

SB-447 An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunication Laws

As President of Junior Achievement of Southwest New England, I am committed to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. As we seek to educate our youth about entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy though, the reality of Connecticut's stagnant economy and job growth has become an undeniable reality. As we work to stem this tide and put Connecticut's economy back on track, I urge you to support SB 447 – An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunication Laws.

Junior Achievement is doing its part to give young adults the skills to be successful in life. We are focused on one of the most powerful ideas possible: giving young people the knowledge, the tools, and the inspiration to understand our economy and make their way in the world. As we look to the future, we need to ensure our economy is strong so that, as we train these young people, there are jobs available to them. That will require a modern technological infrastructure in this state.

By rolling back outdated regulations, telecom companies will have more resources to dedicate to providing broadband to more homes and more advanced wireless technologies to more communities. Now is the time for our state legislature to help modernize our laws and give these youths the opportunity to fully fulfill their potential. **JA of Southwest New England supports SB 447** and we urge Connecticut's state legislature to do the same.